

Message Text

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44

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 SY-05

USSS-00 CPR-01 CCO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 /045 W

----- 036398

O 231412Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3742

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL BUCHAREST 3486

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE

STATE FOR A/O

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT - SITES BACKGROUNDER FOR AMERICAN PRESS

1. FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF SITES OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY DURING VISIT; SCHEDULE HAS NOT BEEN FIRMED UP AND SITES D THROUGH G BELOW MAY NOT BE INCLUDED IN FINAL PROGRAM:

A. SAT AUG 2. OTOPENI AIRPORT AND MOTORCADE ROUTE - WHERE THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE WILL LAND. OTOPENI AIRPORT WAS COMPLETED JUST PRIOR TO THE VISIT OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON IN 1969. LOCATED 14 KM FROM THE CENTER OF BUCHAREST, OTOPENI IS ONE OF THE MOST MODERN AIRPORTS IN EASTERN EUROPE.

THE PRESIDENT'S MOTORCADE WILL MOVE DIRECTLY FROM THE AIRPORT TARMAC ONTO HIGHWAY E-15, THE PRINCIPAL ROAD LINK BETWEEN BUCHAREST AND PLOIESTI. COMING INTO (1) PIATA SCINTEII (LITERALLY SPARK SQUARE) - IS LOCATED IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF THE IMPOSING SCINTEIA BUILDING, A GIFT OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO THE ROMANIAN PEOPLE AND SEAT OF BUCHAREST'S PRINCIPAL PUBLISHING, CULTURAL AND IDEOLOGICAL ORGAN-
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IZATIONS. THE MOTORCADE MAY STOP HERE SO THAT THE

PRESIDENT MAY RECEIVE THE KEYS TO THE CITY.

(2) ARC DE TRIOMPHE (ARCH OF TRIUMPH) - WAS COPIED AFTER THE FRENCH ORIGINAL AND SYMBOLIZES THE INFLUENCE OF FRENCH CULTURE ON ROMANIA.

B. SPRING PALACE - WHERE THE PRESIDENT WILL STAY. THE SPRING PALACE WAS BUILT IN THE MIDDLE SIXTIES SPECIFICALLY TO HOUSE VISITING HEADS OF STATE. IT IS LOCATED IN A TIGHTLY CONTROLLED COMPOUND OF HOMES AND OFFICIAL RESIDENCES INCLUDING PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S. THE SPRING PALACE BORDERS LAKE FLOREASCA, ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF BUCHAREST'S MANY LAKES. THE CITY IS IN FACT KNOWN AS THE "CITY OF LAKES."

C. COUNCIL OF STATE - WHERE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS WILL TAKE PLACE WHEN THEY ARE IN BUCHAREST. THE COUNCIL IS LOCATED IN THE PALACE OF THE REPUBLIC ON GHEORGHE GHORGHIU-DEJ SQUARE. THE PALACE ALSO HOUSES THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART. THE PALACE WAS BUILT BETWEEN 1930 AND 1937, ON THE SITE OF A GRAND BOYAR'S 19TH CENTURY TOWN HOUSE AND THE RESIDENCE OF UNITED ROMANIA'S FIRST LEADER, ALEXANDER CUZA. THE MODERN PALACE SERVED AS A ROYAL RESIDENCE UNTIL 1944. IT WAS HERE THAT THE AUGUST 23, 1944 UPRISING AGAINST THE FASCIST GOVERNMENT ENDED SUCCESSFULLY, AND WHERE IN 1947 THE END OF THE MONARCHY WAS OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMED. THE PALACE IS BUILT IN A U-SHAPE, IN NEOCLASSICAL STYLE. THE COUNCIL OF STATE IS LOCATED IN THE RIGHT WING AS YOU FACE THE BUILDING.

D. SUN AUG 3 OPTIONAL PROGRAM 1. TRAIN ROUTE FROM BUCHAREST TO SINAIA - COVERS A DISTANCE OF 127 KM. THE TRAIN WILL PASS THROUGH GENTLY SLOPING PLAINS TO THE CITY OF PLOIESTI, ROMANIA'S LEADING OIL REFINING CENTER. PLOIESTI WAS BOMBED BY AMERICAN AND ENGLISH PLANES DURING WW II, SINCE IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT GERMAN SOURCES OF OIL. THE TRAIN WILL PASS WITHIN SIGHT OF THE LARGEST OIL REFINING COMPLEX IN EUROPE. ABOUT 30 KM BEYOND PLOIESTI, THE TRAIN WILL BEGIN ASCENDING INTO THE PRAHOVA VALLEY, ONE OF THE MOST PICTURESQUE IN ROMANIA.

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THE ENTIRE TRAIN TRIP SHOULD LAST APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AND A HALF.

E. SINAIA AND PELES CASTLE - WHERE THE TWO PRESIDENTS WILL SPEND SUNDAY MORNING IF THIS OPTION CHOSEN. SINAIA IS AN OLD AND BEAUTIFUL ALPINE RESORT, WHERE 19TH CENTURY NOBLES FROM ALL OVER SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE USED TO SPEND THEIR SUMMERS. IT IS LOCATED AT A HEIGHT OF ABOUT 1500 FEET, AT THE BASE

OF THE BUCEGI MOUNTAINS. PELES CASTLE, WHICH THE TWO PRESIDENTS WILL TOUR, IS A GERMAN RENAISSANCE STRUCTURE BUILT BY THE HOHENZOLLERNS BETWEEN 1875 AND 1883. THE CASTLE IS NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR WOOD CARVINGS, AND FOR THE DIVERSITY OF STYLES USED IN THE PRINCIPAL CHAMBERS. THESE INCLUDE ITALIAN AND ENGLISH RENAISSANCE, BAROQUE, ROCOCO, MOORISH, AND BYZANTINE. THE CASTLE HAS 160 ROOMS, AND CONTAINS EXHIBITS OF ANCIENT WEAPONS, ORIENTAL CARPETS, STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AND TAPESTRIES AND FURNITURE OF VARIOUS PERIODS.

THE PELES CASTLE STANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF SIX HECTARES OF A TERRACED PARK. NEAR PELES IS THE PELISOR CASTLE, WHERE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS WILL TAKE PLACE. THIS CASTLE WAS BUILT BETWEEN 1899 AND 1903, ALSO IN THE GERMAN RENAISSANCE STYLE. IT IS SMALLER THAN PELES, HAVING A MERE 70 ROOMS.

F. SUN AUG 3 OPTIONAL PROGRAM 2.
AMERICAN LIBRARY -- A FACT SHEET ON THE AMERICAN LIBRARY WILL BE PLACED IN EACH JOURNALIST'S PRESS KIT, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN OUT UPON ARRIVAL IN BUCHAREST. THE LIBRARY WAS OPENED IN 1972 PURSUANT TO AN UNDERSTANDING SIGNED DURING PRESIDENT NIXON'S 1969 VISIT TO ROMANIA.

G. UNITY MARKET -- WHERE THE PRESIDENT WILL TOUR A TYPICAL ROMANIAN OUTDOOR MARKET. THIS PARTICULAR ONE IS AMONG THE OLDEST IN BUCHAREST, DATING FROM THE 16TH CENTURY. THE MARKET IS PARTICULARLY BUSY AND PICTURESQUE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS, WHEN THOUSANDS OF ROMANIANS MILL ABOUT THE VEGETABLE STANDS AND ARTISTS' BOOTHS.

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NEXT TO THE MARKET IS MANUC'S INN, A BEAUTIFULLY RESTORED 19TH CENTURY HUNTING LODGE WHICH HAS BEEN CONVERTED INTO A RESTAURANT AND HOTEL WHERE THE PRESIDENT AND MRS FORD WILL SEE A FOLK DANCING TROUPE PERFORM IN THE LARGE INTERIOR COURTYARD.

2. WISH TO REPEAT SCHEDULE STILL NOT FIRMED UP AND SITES D. THROUGH G. MAY NOT BE INVOLVED IN PROGRAM. MOTORCADE ROUTE COUNCIL OF STATE AND SPRING PALACE WILL BE IN FINAL SCHEDULE IN ANY CASE.

3. N.B. THIS MESSAGE IS CLASSIFIED OWING TO REFERENCES TO PRESIDENTIAL SCHEDULE STILL UNDER DISCUSSION. DESCRIPTIVE DATA ON INDIVIDUAL SITES CAN BE TREATED AS UNCLASSIFIED IF NOT TIED TO PRESIDENTIAL SCHEDULE.

BARNES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUCHAR03486
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750254-0485
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750727/aaaaaxtd.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OPR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT - SITES BACKGROUNDER FOR AMERICAN PRESS
TAGS: OVIP, (FORD, GERALD R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006